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## (54) PACKAGING CANS

(71) We, ROBINSON MULTIPLE PACKAGING LIMITED, of 1 Redcliffe Street, Bristol, BS99 7QY, a British Company, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to packaging cans, and has as an object to provide a holder for one, or preferably a number of, circular cans.

According to the present invention there is provided a blank of foldable sheet material for forming into a holder for a circular can, the can being of the kind in which a top closure is secured to the sides by outward beading, the sides being of reduced diameter at the top so that the beading does not project laterally beyond the sides, the holder being of the kind which comprises a top panel which rests on the top of the can and opposite side panels hinged thereto to extend downwardly on opposite sides of the can, a pair of first major cuts having ends in the hinge lines between the top panel and side panels and central portions projecting outwardly beyond those lines so as to provide openings to receive opposite portions of the rim beading of the can, the holder being characterised in that each side panel has a pair of minor cuts extending generally downwards from opposite end portions of each said first major cut, a longitudinally extending line of weakening to coincide with the shoulder of the can above which the sides are of reduced diameter and comprising a second major cut below each first major cut to provide a recess cut to provide a recess in the side panel to accommodate a portion of the said shoulder of the can, whereby said shoulder bearing outwardly upon the lower edge of the strip of the blank lying between the first and second major cuts and said minor cuts urges the upper edge of said strip inwardly under the portion of the rim beading of the can projecting through said opening. Preferably the blank is adapted to hold a plurality of cans in this manner.

In order that the invention may be more clearly understood, one embodiment will now

be described with reference to the drawings accompanying the Provisional Specification, wherein:—

Fig. 1 shows a blank for packaging three cans,

Fig. 2 shows a perspective view of the blank applied to three such cans, and

Fig. 3 shows an end view of the package.

Referring to the drawings, the blank comprises a top panel 10, a pair of opposite side panels hinged thereto through fold lines 12, and divided into upper and lower parts 14, 16 respectively by fold lines 18. Three pairs of opposite arcuate cuts 20 extend from the top panel into the side panels from the fold lines 12 so that when the top panel is applied to the top of a can 15 and the side wall panels are drawn down on each side, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, the beading 17 at the rim of the can projects through the crescent shaped opening thus formed on each side. In this case, the cans 15 to be packaged have side walls of reduced diameter at the top so that the beading 17 does not project laterally beyond the side walls. A second arcuate cut 22 with downturned ends, is formed in the blank below each cut 20, and interrupts the fold line 18. A pair of short generally V-shaped cuts 24 extend into the side panel from opposite end portions of each of the cuts 20, a short line of weakening 26 joining the ends of the cuts 24 and 22. There is thus defined a curved strip 28 on each side. As shown in Fig. 3, when the side panels are drawn down beside the cans, the upper parts 14 are inclined towards the shoulder 19 of the can where the side walls are of reduced diameter, and the lower parts 16 extend straight down the sides of the can below the shoulder 19, the lines of weakening formed by the cuts 22 in the fold lines 18 being at the substantially same level as the shoulder. The arcuate cuts 22 provide recesses to accommodate opposite portions of the shoulder 19, as shown in Fig. 3. These shoulder portions, bearing outwardly upon the lower edges of the strips 28 cause the upper edges thereof to be urged inwardly under the projecting rim beading of the can and thereby secure the holder to the can.

**WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—**

1. A blank of foldable sheet material for forming into a holder for a circular can, the can being of the kind in which a top closure is secured to the sides by outward beading, the sides being of reduced diameter at the top so that the beading does not project laterally beyond the sides, the holder being of the kind which comprises a top panel which rests on the top of the can and opposite side panels hinged thereto to extend downwardly on opposite sides of the can, a pair of first major cuts having ends in the hinge lines between the top panel and side panels and central portions projecting outwardly beyond those lines so as to provide openings to receive opposite portions of the rim beading of the can, the holder being characterised in that each side panel has a pair of minor cuts extending generally downwards from opposite end portions of each said first major cut, a longitudinally extending line of weakening to coincide with the shoulder of the can above which the sides are of reduced diameter and comprising a second major cut below each first major cut to provide a recess in the side panel to accommodate a portion of the said shoulder of the can, whereby said shoulder bearing outwardly upon the lower

edge of the strip of the blank lying between the first and second major cuts and said minor cuts urges the upper edge of said strip inwardly under the portion of the rim beading of the can projecting through said opening. 35

2. A blank according to claim 1 wherein secondary lines of weakening joint the end portions of said second major cuts and the minor cuts. 40

3. A blank according to claim 1 or claim 2 adapted to hold a plurality of cans in a row.

4. A blank substantially as described herein with reference to the drawings accompanying the Provisional Specification. 45

5. A pack comprising one or more cans of the kind described in claim 1 mounted to a holder according to any one of the preceding claims.

6. A pack according to claim 5, substantially as described herein with reference to the drawings accompanying the Provisional Specification. 50

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